

MINUTES  
Shreveport Water Works Museum Governing Board  
May 6, 2013

Attending: Gary Fox George Bakowski Jim Van Hook David Kunz  
Russell Pedro Nettie Brown Cathy Williamson Dale Ward  
Jeff Little Paul Williams Marilyn Joiner Conway Link  
Stacy Brown Mary Durusau

1. Next meeting is set for Monday August 5, 5pm at McNeill.
2. Draft minutes of the February 11 meeting were unanimously approved with no changes on a motion by Russell Pedro and second by Nettie Brown.
3. Russell Pedro and Dale Ward reviewed the plans for the upcoming May 11 Hidden History tour event. Russell said that the ribbon cutting for the railroad museum grand opening is set for 3:30pm. Russell mentioned that the railroad society will be offering snacks and beverages, multiple information tables about railroad topics, and several temporary railroad displays for the afternoon. Ward reported that volunteers from Booker T. Washington HS and a Benton Boy Scout troop had offered to help with the event.
4. Museums Director Mary Durusau attended the meeting and briefed the board on several activities from Baton Rouge. The administration's budget submitted to the Legislature will cut museum funding another \$300,000 in the upcoming fiscal year to about \$3.2 million, but Durusau doesn't anticipate any impact at SWWM, other than a continuation of the present status quo from earlier reductions. Durusau said that there are no plans to close museums, but for the long term there will be a lot of fiscal pressure that could force the state out of the museum business. Better news is that there is a little money left in the current fiscal year budget for museums that they are working on spending on needed projects before the end of the fiscal year on June 30. Some other possible good news is that representatives from the state Office of Facilities Management and State Historic Preservation Office will visit the site on May 8 to inspect the failed masonry mortar and other maintenance needs and discuss the possibility of initiating a repair project. Funding for this is not contingent on the end of the fiscal year.
5. Ward reported that Thomas & Parker Waterproofing estimates that \$45,000 will be needed to repaint the exterior only of the oldest brickwork that is failing. He also reported that an anonymous local charitable foundation has offered to donate up to \$75,000 for repairs if the State will match it. The McNeill Preservation Society has voted to apply for a Community Foundation grant as another source of potential funding to make repairs.
6. Ward reported that progress has been made by the Preservation Society on the ozone room floor repair since the last meeting. Durusau said that the Secretary of State's office (SOS) has initiated work on repairing the central furnace for the ozone room. They will be able to carry this to completion if the present cost estimate of \$1200 does not escalate.
7. Ward reported that board member Paul Williams has made good progress on clearing brush around the bayou viewing deck with assistance from a new volunteer, David Smith. Thanks Paul!

Dale Ward, Board Chairman